

Notes on the nest of a Bearded Dragon *Pogona minor* - On 15 January 1992 we watched a Bearded Dragon begin excavating a burrow to lay her eggs in shallow sandy loam adjacent to our house 36 km east of Wongan Hills. It was dug intermittently over three days and on completion (closed) was 40.6 cm long and terminated 19.6 cm below ground level. On the second day of excavation we noticed some bark and a leaf had been tucked into the burrow.

The nest was kept under observation and on the afternoon of 23 March (65 days later) we noticed the burrow open at an escape tunnel about 10 cm from the original entrance. We then excavated the burrow and found all ten eggs had hatched. On average the flattened eggshells measured 28.6 mm x 22.2 mm. Two hatchlings found were 95.2 mm long (head and body 44.4 mm tail 50.8 mm). A day old hatchling weighed 2.3 grams.

- Mr and Mrs B. Smith, P.O. Box 190, Wongan Hills 6603.

Rainbow Lorikeets feeding on the fruit of *Allocasuarina obesa* - Lorikeets are known to include soft fruits and berries in their diet (G. Pizzey *A Field Guide to the Birds of Australia*) and it is worth recording some observations made on two Rainbow Lorikeets *Trichoglossus haematodus*, which were feeding on the hard fruit of an *Allocasuarina obesa* in Bardon Park, Maylands, on 17 July 1992.

The tree was laden with fruit, which was hardened, and the lorikeets foraged over the fruit for some twenty minutes. They didn't bite deeply into the fruit, which was sufficiently hardened to resist them, but bit into the end of the fruit and appeared to peel off a piece of the skin. They did not spend much time on any one fruit but quickly foraged from one to another and ranged over much of the tree while I watched them.

- R. H. STRANGER, 28/76 East Street, Maylands, W.A. 6051.

Notes on the Chestnut-breasted Mannikin, *Lonchura castaneothorax*, at Maylands - The Chestnut-breasted Mannikin has been introduced to the Swan Coastal Plain (Storr and Johnstone, 1988. *Birds of the Swan Coastal Plain and adjacent seas and islands. Rec. West. Aust. Mus. Suppl.* 28). I first saw a flock of eight at Maylands in 1982, and although it has been seen in larger numbers since then, I do not think that the species is resident here.

Family groups comprising two adults and two juveniles are sometimes seen but more usually they are in flocks of 10-20 individuals. Larger groups are infrequently seen.

The species only occurs on the western portion of the Maylands Peninsula, frequenting the parks and wastelands and occasionally the landward edges of the *Typha* or *Juncus* rush that borders the river. A favoured locality was the mudflats which were formerly covered with beds of wild oats *Avena* sp. and veldt grasses *Ehrharta*